



WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 2, 1910.

WHEN the act to increase the liquor license was introduced in the senate it was not to be construed as indicating upon his part a position unfriendly or antagonistic to the brewery or liquor business in the state, but that the revenue was necessary and money would have to be raised and an increase of \$50 on saloons and some other amendments to the liquor law would fix matters. A bill has been prepared by the senate finance committee making much larger increases, and the news reports say "without any discussion." Members of the general assembly of late years seem as much afraid of the question of prohibition, local option, near beer, etc., as a child is of a Jack-in-the-box or a woman of a mouse. The finance committee in framing the bill estimated that it will raise from \$125,000 to \$135,000 extra. That it will do nothing of the kind is the belief of many, as certainly many dealers will not be able to pay the increased toll. The treasurer who collects the license receives a commission for receiving the money, and if to this is added the proposed increase in the pay of the thirty circuit judges, and all of the corporation court judges of \$1,000 each (which was the sum first fixed, but we believe a compromise will place it at \$500) a large hole will be made in the liquor dealers' contribution. Just why this increase in salaries has been so promptly reported to the legislature is a subject of comment. The salary, \$2,500, is held by many to be a compensation commensurate with the ability of a majority of those now on the bench. Were it otherwise and their legal attainments and experience as lawyers commanded greater remuneration, it is possible that a few, at least, might show a spirit of patriotism by remaining on the bench, even at a sacrifice.

DISPATCHES from New York say that the northern residential section of that city is literally in a state of panic as the result of the series of horrible crimes, that have gone unpunished there in the past few weeks. Children are being kept off the streets and women, when alone in their homes, are afraid to answer the door. Men are arming themselves and threatening to take the law in their own hands in view of the failure of the police to make arrests. Two little boys, it will be remembered, while engaged in coasting, were murdered by a strange man, and early Sunday Moses Goodman, a wealthy shirt waist manufacturer, was shot to death in his home by a burglar, who seriously wounded his son Isaac when the boy rushed to his father's assistance. The wave of crime seems to be gathering force all the time. Andrew D. White, first president of Cornell and former ambassador to Germany, who has studied the question for eight years, is appalled at the present condition and outlook. He predicts that 5,000 lives will be taken this year. Violence has filled the earth before, and the increasing number of horrible murders which are daily reported from all sections of the civilized globe cast a shadow over the labors of the many who are attempting to improve mundane conditions.

MINE horrors are becoming more numerous yearly. The death list in the Primero, Col., mine stands at 79. One man alone of those at work when the explosion took place was gotten out alive. Ten men are known to be dead and 17 others are missing and supposed to be pinned up to the Browder mine, near Drakesville, Ky., in which there was a gas explosion yesterday. Two men were saved from the burning Sholl mine at South Bartonville, Ill., which is believed to have been set on fire. The Cherry, Ill., mine was opened yesterday after being sealed since the explosion there, but how soon the 130 bodies supposed to be within can be brought out is problematical.

ACCORDING to J. O. Lincoln, president of the National Industrial Trade League, who on Monday testified before the House committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the average railroad tariff sheet is just about as intelligible to the ordinary shipper as the front page of a Chinese newspaper, and even the freight agents of the roads that publish them are unable to decipher their hieroglyphics. Mr. Lincoln also deduced anyone to find out from one of those sheets what it will cost to ship anything from any place to any where, as he averred they are absolutely undecipherable to the uninitiated. It may be said that the blanket time tables which sometimes fall into the hands of the uninitiated are equally as hard to trace out.

A COTEMPORARY has a cartoon on "Ground Hog Day." The shadow of a huge elephant, bearing the words "increased cost of living," has suddenly appeared on a wall in front of a man and woman who bear the marks of a fierce struggle for existence. A fright-

ened mouse, representing the family income, is in the back ground. The shadow, according to the generally accepted tradition, is ominous of six weeks more of wintry blasts when the coal bin as well as the larder must be looked after.

From Washington.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. The Senate today confirmed the nomination of Royall E. Cabell, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Once more the tariff is to be dragged forth into the light of day, this time by the tariff board, if President Taft has his way. The president has asked for \$75,000, in one of the appropriation bills soon to be introduced, to enable the board to do the work. The proposed investigation is to be conducted along lines on which the tariff board is now at work. A comprehensive plan for a scientific inquiry is being solved. The Payne tariff law provided such an investigation as the president proposes, and it is necessary, the president thinks, was adequately shown in the debate on the Payne law.

The latest declaration from the insurgents of the House that they will unequivocally support the Taft postal savings bank, conversion, interstate commerce and anti-injunction bills makes the president, for the time being at least, the absolute master of the republican party, and political prophets are declaring today that he will secure the passage of all the legislation he wants before the roses bloom. The only fear in the hearts of the administration republicans is that some of the quiet insurgents may get stirred again over something in the House and kick over the traces once more. The fact that a good many of the insurgents have made their campaigns at home on an anti-Osmond platform complicates the situation considerably. Of their constituencies should get it into their heads that these members are backsliding or "playing in" with Cannon, they might do a little prodding from home which would force the now quiescent insurgents to again quash their teeth and make more faces at the speaker. How to appear as implacable foes of Cannon and the rules and at the same time retain the support of the president who "stands by" the speaker has been a very difficult feat to execute. As the situation now stands the insurgents have promised the president to be "good" until the end of the present session of Congress which is equivalent to saying that they'll not kick up any more trouble until after the summer's congressional campaign. After the next if it is elected neither the president nor any one else except Speaker Cannon cares very much how many breaks they throw at the rules, and if the speaker can still swing the votes, he won't care either. The only discordant note now heard in the republican music hall is the loud discord emanating from the horns of the La Follette-Dolliver-Brisson corner. If business is real good next summer the administration is hopeful that the country will turn a deaf ear to the progressives and send back to Congress only those good little congressmen who keep their eyes on the conductor in the White House.

Per contra, Mr. Norris made a statement today in which he said: "The machine is trying to use a club to get us into line by threatening that if we do not cease our fight on Cannon, the machine will block legislation and blame us. 'We will not be clubbed into line nor be put into a false position. As a matter of fact the speaker's committee have charges or legislation and have not reported any one of these measures. Why not? The speaker controls all the committee. If he favors this legislation, why don't his committees bring some of it out of their pigeon holes. The truth is that the organization sees that it is compelled to pass some sort of progressive legislation and is afraid to open the door to really good legislation. So they want to hold caucuses on this legislation and get us pledged to certain bills that seem to be progressive but in reality are full of vicious jokers. That is the whole conspiracy and it will not be put through so far as the insurgents are concerned. We will not stand for turning over the legislative powers of the House to the republican caucus."

The democrats of the House are planning to make a zealous effort to amend the present tariff laws so that all food stuff will be placed on the free list. This announcement was made today by Mr. Champ Clark. "We would have brought the matter up the other day," said Mr. Clark, "when Mr. Payne introduced his bill for the payment of government indebtedness in gold, but we were given to understand that Mr. Payne would make a point of order against the move. The chair would have been obliged to sustain the point of order and nothing would have been accomplished. At the first favorable opportunity, however, the democrats intend to bring the matter up and will endeavor to secure an open vote on the subject."

Speaker Cannon is smiling today, for he has delivered his mind of some burning thoughts on undesirable citizens, including sensational journalists, muckrakers, insurgents, and rebellious minorities. Last evening at the banquet of the Loyal Legion, he charged practically every misfortune that has come upon the country, from the civil war to the high cost of living, to the pernicious "yellow press." With a wealth of vituperation he declared that to the newspapers could be traced the murders of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley.

William Loeb, jr., collector of customs at New York was in town today and had consultations with treasury officials and with President Taft. It is declared that his call at the White House was merely out of courtesy. With Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Curtis he discussed among other things the new regulations that are to be issued regarding the examination of passenger's baggage.

As near a real wild Indian war whoop as ten civilized Sioux Indians could negotiate started the crowded waiting room of the executive offices at the White House today. It was the greeting of ten Sioux chiefs to their old enemy, General Nelson A. Miles. The Indians, from the Yankton reservation in South Dakota, called at the White House to pay their respects to the Great White Father. They had been consulting the officers of the interior Department with regard to tribal matters for a week or more, and were preparing to start for home. As they sat in the ante-room at the White House, General Miller, with

a committee from the Second army corps marched in. General Miles was in civilian dress, but the Indians recognized him. As soon as he entered the room he was surrounded by the braves, who shook his hand and greeted their pleasure at seeing him. The Sioux called General Miles by his Indian name—"Mato Ogla," the "Bear Coat." General Miles and the Indians talked over old times on the plains for half an hour.

A formal proposition that the Peary Arctic Club of New York and the National Geographic Society, of Washington co-operate in an expedition in search of the South Pole has been made by Commander Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole. Announcement of this fact was made today by the board of managers of the Geographic Society. Commander Peary himself will not participate in the expedition if the plans mature.

The insurgent situation in the Senate occupied a good deal of President Taft today. The state of Kansas, hot bed of insurgency is giving the president much trouble.

Commander Peary is back in Washington ready to report for duty at the bureau of yards and docks of the Navy Department. Rear Admiral Hilday, chief of the bureau, has had a conference with Peary in which the latter's status was discussed, but, as yet, no place has been found for him. The Navy Department is just now in a quandary over placing the north pole discoverer. He is too much out of touch with the work of yards and docks to be given one of the more important positions, and, at the same time, it is not regarded as fitting that he should be placed in a subordinate one. Besides, he has on hand several engagements which would be broken if he returned to duty. He is awaiting a summons from the secretary of the navy to find out just what is to happen to him. It is possible that he may be given further leave of absence.

Senator Aldrich was on the floor of the Senate today for the first time since the Christmas recess. He was ill from bronchial trouble for some time and then spent nearly two weeks in Florida recuperating. His health appeared to be completely restored.

A committee from the National Farmer's Union, headed by O. S. Barrett, president of the organization, called on President Taft today in relation to legislation on the question of gambling in futures. The president talked with the committee on the subject for some time, and expressed himself in favor of a law that will prevent speculation in the necessities of life.

That the president may reserve to the government any public lands, is proposed by a bill to be recommended to the Senate for passage by the committee on public lands. The action of the committee was taken at a meeting today. The bill provides that the president may "at any time in his discretion withdraw from settlement, location, sale or entry, any of the public lands of the United States and reserve the same for forestry, waterpower, irrigation, classification or other public purposes to be specified in the order of withdrawal and such withdrawal and reservation shall remain in force until revoked by him or by an act of Congress. The secretary of the interior shall report all such withdrawals to Congress at the beginning of the next regular session." The bill is a substitute for the measure drafted by Secretary Ballinger. He proposed that the secretary of the interior be given authority to withdraw land pending action by Congress. The committee, however, deemed it best to lodge that power only in the president. There will be opposition to the bill on the floor of the Senate.

An exorcism of the United States Steel Corporation, and an article lauding the shirtwaist strikers of New York, are among Samuel Gompers' contributions to the February issue of the "Federalist," published today. Gompers attacks the various arguments advanced in favor of the "overcapitalization of the steel trust," and accuses the recently inaugurated "profit-sharing" scheme of the corporation.

The Humphrey ship subsidy bill, which represents the views of President Taft on the subject, will be taken up for consideration by the House committee on merchant marine and fisheries tomorrow. Representatives of a number of commercial organizations will appear before the committee in opposition to certain sections of the bill, especially the paragraphs relating to the increase of tonnage taxes.

The comptroller of the currency today issued a call for statements of the condition of national banks at the close of business on Monday, January 31.

The Seine Still Floating.

Paris, Feb. 2.—While the river Seine is still many feet above its normal height, it is practically within its old bed today. The fall in the last twenty-four hours has been 17 inches, the stage today measuring 22 feet and five inches at the Pont d'Assolvière. A fall of 18 inches is expected today.

That a scourge of typhoid fever threatens the city as a result of its polluted water supply was indicated today by several cases of typhoid that were reported to the authorities. The victims had been so engorged in other flood problems that they had not taken the precaution of boiling their drinking water.

The health department issued another "boil your water" bulletin today, though the conditions in large sections of the city and in many of the suburbs make it almost impossible to follow the instructions.

Acute suffering still exists in many suburbs, particularly at Vernon, where the water is even with the second floor of the houses. The national road from Paris to Rouen is submerged for most of its length.

Three days of vigorous warfare against Apaches has appreciably decreased their depredations. Numerous robberies are reported but the thieves are taking greater care to operate in isolated sections and not to run afoul of the authorities.

American contributions to the relief fund will probably reach \$250,000 before the week is over. They now amount to \$160,000, \$125,000 of which has already been turned over to the authorities by Ambassador Bacon.

In addition to this, Rodman Wana-maker an American millionaire living in Paris, has agreed to furnish a loaf of bread each day for the next thirty days to every needy food sufferer.

The Regal Shoe for men in all the new lasts can be had of John A. Marshall & Bro., 422 King street.

The Legislature.

SENATE.

The Senate soon after meeting yesterday proceeded to the hall of the House of Delegates where the ceremonies incident to the inauguration of Governor Mann were held. No business was transacted.

HOUSE.

At 11:30 the Senate appeared, the members of the House standing. The speaker presided over the joint session, assisted by Senator Echols, president pro tem. of the Senate.

Clerk Booker called the roll of the Senate, Clerk Williams performing the same duty for the House.

At the conclusion of the governor's inaugural address the joint assembly and the House adjourned to noon today. No bills were introduced and no real business of any kind was transacted.

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

As stated in the Gazette of that day Judge W. H. Mann was inaugurated governor in Richmond yesterday.

The Bible upon which Judge Mann was sworn was furnished by himself and had a book mark which designated the one hundred and twenty-fifth psalm. With his hands upon the words of the Psalmist, "As the mountains are around about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth and for ever." Gov. Mann took the oath to faithfully discharge the duties and responsibilities of the office of governor.

The Bible used in the qualification of the lieutenant governor was the same as that used and presented to him four years ago when he first assumed his present office. He brought it with him.

Governor Mann's inaugural message to the general assembly was seven newspaper columns in length and contained detailed reference to a wide variety of matters of public interest.

Commending his administration to the favor of heaven, he offered as his first service to the commonwealth a plea for the state's tenderest care for surviving Confederate veterans.

"Familiar with every section of the state, and with our present method of assessing and collecting taxes," the message says, "I venture to say that no more important question than the equalization of taxes will come before our general assembly."

Among the governor's observations are the following:

"Just now the important question to be considered is how to secure a proper and equal assessment of property as a basis for taxation during 1911. We ought, for the present, to adopt the best available plan which will enable us to accomplish this result, and then create a tax commission, if it shall be deemed necessary to study the system of taxation in this and other states and permanently adopt that system which promises the best results."

"After the assessment of this year, while depressing, unless absolutely necessary, the creation of new offices, and highly commending our honored auditor for the admirable administration of his most important office, I think a commissioner of taxes should be appointed as a permanent officer of the government, charged with the duty of making himself familiar with every section of the state, its property, resources and interests, and establishing in every county and city a basis of assessments conforming to the requirements of the constitution, and also charged with the supervision of all officers of the government who dry it is to assess and collect taxes, and the establishment of a uniform system of accounting throughout the state."

"I respectfully suggest to the general assembly the necessity for change of the laws controlling the cities of the state, so as to simplify and make more efficient their government."

"The present system is condemned to be cumbersome, expensive, and in many respects inefficient. The functions of municipal government are much more largely executive and administrative than legislative. Practical experience has demonstrated the difficulty, if not impossibility, of securing effective, prompt and economical administration of municipal affairs by the means of numerically large councils. The experience of many cities of the country seems to prove that small governing bodies, giving practically all of their time to the affairs of the city, with direct and easily ascertained responsibility to the people, furnish the simplest and most satisfactory form of government."

Governor Mann concludes his message with a review of what temperance legislation has already done for Virginia under the "Mann" and "Byrd" laws and adds:

"I simply reiterate my steadfast opposition to the saloon and my confidence in the people of Virginia, who have the right to settle this question, as to them shall seem best."

He closes with an appeal to the legislature and the people to stand together and all work for the progress and glory of the commonwealth.

COLONEL HALSEY.

Mr. Edwin A. Halsey, of Washington, has been appointed a member of the staff of Governor Mann. Mr. Halsey is assistant superintendent of the Senate press gallery which position he has most satisfactorily filled for a number of years and will doubtless perform his new duties as colonel equally as well. He had valuable military training at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute while a student there and is well qualified for a position on the governor's staff.

In asking Mr. Halsey to accept the appointment, Governor-elect Mann stated that he was desired not only for service on the staff, but for consultation, when occasion arises. Mr. Halsey is a nephew of Senator Daniel, of Virginia, and a brother of Don P. Halsey, state senator from Lynchburg.

Mysterious Poisoning.

Washington, W. C., Feb. 2.—The authorities here started an investigation today of the mysterious poisoning of Peter Behrman, his wife and five children which was followed by an attempt to burn their home last night. Mr. Behrman was dead when found, one child has since died and three other children are in a critical condition. It is believed some one gave all the victims poison and then believing them dead, tried to cover up the crime by firing the house.

Playing with a gun, a 6-year-old boy, shot and killed his grandfather, Tossan Leger, aged 70 years, at Euterwood, La.

Today's Telegraphic News.

Trouble Between Turkey and Greece. Constantinople, Feb. 2.—The Turkish minister of foreign affairs was today instructed to warn Greece that unless her preparations for war stopped immediately, Turkey would consider them a casus belli and take the offensive against Greece.

Today's dispatches from Greece say that all available reserves are being mobilized, independent companies are being organized in the villages and subscriptions are being raised to support these irregular bands. The Greek government is reported to have ordered 200,000 military uniforms.

While it is not believed here that the four powers that until recently acted as the guardians of Greece, Russia, England, France and Italy, will permit the present embargo to grow into open clash, Turkey is proceeding on the theory that war is inevitable and is already getting ready to meet both Greece, in case the latter accepts Crete's delegates in her new parliament, and Bulgaria, which is again inclined against Turkey.

That Bulgaria is planning some military coup is indicated by the calling of her reserves for their annual maneuvers on February 23 instead of March 31, the date first named.

Turkey is not at all averse to a war at this time, as the administration believes that a European plot exists to discredit it and humiliate the Young Turks. The Young Turks say they are glad of the opportunity to assert their power, even though it involves a war.

The most active military preparations are being made throughout Turkey, the efficiency of the army organization greatly surprised foreign diplomats.

Turkey looks upon Crete's determination to send deputies to the new Greek parliament as a direct repudiation of neutrality.

Case Thrown out of Court.

London, Feb. 2.—Judge Sir John Bigham, of the probate court, practically threw out of court today the famous "Sickville postage case," whereby Ernest Henry Sickville West, son of the late Lord Lionel Sickville-West, former minister to Washington, sought to acquire the title and estate left by his father.

Judge Bigham, on the strength of evidence presented by Sir Robert Finlay, said he was satisfied that Josefa Duran, the Spanish dancer and mother of the claimant, whom Lord Sickville was said to have married sometime between 1862 and 1867, while attached to the English legation at Madrid, was married at the time to Antonio de Llave, who died in 1888.

Sir Robert also presented a document written by Lord Sickville on September 23, 1881, declaring that he was never married to Josefa Duran, having admitted the marriage to save the name of the woman, and that the claimant and the five other children born to him and Josefa were illegitimate.

Turkey and Russia.

Teheran, Feb. 2.—Persian government officials are today satisfied that Persia will be no better than a Russian province within a year. The recent dispatch of three strong detachments of the Czar's soldiers to Aherd, the metropolis of the province of Azerbaidjan, for the campaign of checking the depredations of the notorious brigand, Rahim Khan, has convinced the authorities that Russia has taken another and decisive step in her programme of absorbing the shah's country. The real purpose of the latest Russian invasion, officials believe, is again to re-establish Rahim in order that Russia may have an excuse for retaining an armed force at Aherd and thus keeping the province under Russian control. It is assumed here that Russia is acting with England's sanction, or at least advantage of England's involvement in domestic political problems. All appeals to the Muscovite legation here have gone unanswered.

The Navy Scandal.

Boston, Feb. 2.—Flat denial by Paymaster G. P. Auld, whose court-martial is in progress at the Charlestown navy yard here, that he had struck Dr. Edward Cowles at a navy hospital, his declaration that he had ordered Dr. Cowles from the dance because the latter had been poisoning pretty Dorothy Heeler, of Chicago and his revelation that to Miss Margaret Ames, hostess at the dance where the trouble occurred, where the sensations at today's hearing of the navy scandal. All the evidence in the case was presented today and adjournment was taken till tomorrow, when Major Leonard will argue for Auld's acquittal.

Miss Margaret Ames testified that Auld on the night he said to have attacked Dr. Cowles was very much agitated. She said he was not under the influence of liquor but that he was not quite himself.

Boston, Feb. 2.—When the Auld court-martial reassembled at the navy yard today Paymaster G. P. Auld, who started the fight with Edward S. Cowles at the navy yard dance which resulted in the present scandal, was on hand to take the stand in his own defense.

Not in many years have the innermost secrets of the "ruling set" inside of the naval circle here been so ruthlessly exposed to public gossip, and it is predicted that private feuds are being laid that are likely to have a detrimental effect on the service.

Little jealousies have been uncovered and it has been shown that the navy yard officials and their wives have indulged in gossip about each other and each other's friends to an extent hardly believable.

It is understood that the question whether Dr. Cowles, when ordered by Auld to leave the dance, called the latter a "contemptible cur," thus starting the free-for-all fight, is likely to be one of the points upon which the verdict of the court will hinge.

Attacked by Strikers.

Valley Falls, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Women and children employed in the Tilton cotton mill here were assailed with a shower of stones, brick and other missiles when they attempted to enter the mill gates today by a gang of about fifty men and women who have been on a strike about a week. As a result of the mill riot the police were hurried to the scene.

Officers Littlefield and Parker were both knocked down and trampled upon while attempting to make arrests. Despite the fact that guns were drawn and several shots fired, the police succeeded in collaring only two of the rioters, both are locked up.

News of the Day.

Joseph G. Waters, for many years a prominent Georgetown business man, died yesterday.

The Genesee Hotel, at Leroy, N. Y., was partly wrecked and 21 persons were hurt by a natural gas explosion.

Mrs. Phillip W. Webster, 42 years old, of Niagara Falls, yesterday gave birth to her twenty-sixth child. She married at the age of 16. Five pairs of twins and one set of triplets were included in the number.

Dr. William Penn Compton, a well known physician of Washington dropped dead yesterday afternoon while calling on one of his patients. Dr. Compton was 45 years old, a son of the late Barnes Compton, of Maryland.

Inspector Henry G. Beyer, or Surgeon Charles F. Stokes will be the next surgeon general of the United States navy, according to the present indications, to succeed Admiral P. M. Rixey, the incumbent. The latter's term expires on Saturday next and his successor will be named within a few days.

Henry W. Wolf, a city councilman and clerk in the Southern Railway office in Louisville, Ky., choked to death yesterday on a piece of meat which he was eating at a lunch counter in a saloon. Mr. Wolf had taken but a few bites when he grew black in the face and fell to the floor. A physician was called, but Mr. Wolf was dead before the doctor arrived.

Support combining both backing and chafing have been accorded President Taft by two caucuses within the past 36 hours, one by the frigate House regulars from New York State, the other in the House "insurgents," who acted in the case of enemies only by implied suspicion of the honesty of the administration's declared purposes. Both caucuses, however, avoided taking aggressive positions on the subject of changing the House rules.

Life-asserts watched all of yesterday in vain for the crew of the three-masted schooner Francis, which went to pieces on the shoals between the Cape Hatteras and Big Kinnakeet life-saving station. That no dead bodies were washed up on the beach is probably due to the fact that the men fell prey to the several schools of man-eating sharks which are said to have infested the waters of Cape Hatteras within the past week.

The first congressional reception since the establishment of a new regime at the White House, heretofore one of the most overcrowded functions of the winter, passed into history last night with only a few more than 1,300 guests. In addition to the leaders of the two houses of Congress and many of their followers, there were present to greet the president and Mrs. Taft the ambassadors and ministers, accompanied by their families, the Supreme Court justices and a number from residential circles.

The banking house of Fisk & Robinson, of New York, prominent among the houses dealing in government, state and city bonds and other investment securities, failed yesterday. The firm's representatives said the liabilities were approximately \$7,000,000, of which more than \$1,000,000 is unsecured. The liabilities are thus greater than those of any other private banking house which has suspended since a long time antedating the panic of 1907. The failure was due directly to heavy underwriting on behalf of the Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad system.

At the meeting of the New York Board of Aldermen yesterday Alderman Mead offered a resolution and ordinance tending to do away with a strenuous month of July. In the resolution he says that by reason of the masses employed to commemorate Independence Day it has become a national evil; that many persons are killed and maimed by the unscrupulous and careless use of fireworks and firecrackers and asks that the rules committee appoint a committee of five members for the purpose of devising some means to commemorate the day less dangerous to life and property than the manner in which it is now observed.

O. C. Dickinson, democrat, was elected to Congress yesterday in the Sixth Missouri district by 2,500 to 2,000 majority over Phillips Griffith, republican. No republican gains are reported from any republican precinct. The 53rd congressional district's democratic majority has never been less than 1,500 since the present district was formed in 1901, except in 1904, when the republican tide was reduced De Armoud's majority to 1,041. The democratic and republican congressional committees sent noted speakers into the district in the campaign just closed.

A sweeping investigation into the increased cost of living to be conducted by the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives, is provided for in a resolution introduced by Representative Payne, yesterday. The resolution empowers the committee to administer oaths, employ experts, send for papers and persons, and hold meetings anywhere in the United States. A thorough and far-reaching investigation of the "beef trust" is provided for in a resolution also introduced yesterday by Representative Coudry, a republican member from Missouri. The resolution is drawn in drastic terms, and appropriates \$20,000 to be used in getting at the facts. Representative Folker, of New York, introduced his bill placing beef, mutton, lamb, pork and other meats on the free list of entry into this country for a period of one year from enactment of the measure into law.

BITEN BY MAD DOG.

Anne, aged nine, and Sophie, aged twelve, children of M. Delmas, of Massachusetts, were bitten by a mad dog, Monday afternoon, under peculiar circumstances. One of the children, when near the postoffice, on her way home, was bitten on the left hand, and the other, while on her way to school, was bitten upon the right hand, the bite being more severe than that of her sister. The two points are at least a quarter of a mile apart. Mr. Delmas pursued the dog and after a few hours diligent search, succeeded in locating and killing it. Mr. Delmas has taken the girls to Washington, where the Pasteur treatment will be administered. Mr. Delmas took with him also the head of the dog which he will have examined for rabies. Several dogs in Massachusetts known to have been bitten by this dog were promptly killed.

The Market.

Georgetown, D. C. Feb. 2. Wheat 110-125.

Virginia News.

Attorney General Williams yesterday appointed W. E. B. Lee, of Louisa, as assistant attorney general.

H. F. Coleman, the Norfolk and Western telegraph operator who was found tied at the station at Elkins, has confessed that he robbed the cash drawer and then tied himself, and was not attacked by robbers.

A decree was entered in the Law and Equity Court of Richmond yesterday appointing Thomas W. Purcell, formerly head of the firm of Purcell, Ladd & Co., as receiver for the firm of T. A. Miller, incorporated, proprietor of a drug store at 319 east Broad street.

In the Circuit Court of Warwick county yesterday Judge Thornton quashed the proceedings instituted by Newport News for the annexation of territory in Elizabeth City and Warwick counties on the ground that notice had not been legally served on the Boards of Supervisors. The decision ties up the annexation for about six weeks.

Governor Swanson said yesterday that he had no public statement to make on retiring from office, referring every one to his record and to the progress the state has made in the past four years. He and Mrs. Swanson left yesterday afternoon for Washington, where they will be guests at the New Willard hotel for several days.

The funeral of W. Herbert Ashbeza took place at Baldwin Ridge Church, Fauquier county, Monday. Rev. E. S. Hicks conducted the services. Mr. Ashbeza is survived by his widow, who was Miss Wheelwright, of Baltimore. He was the son of the late Capt. William H. Ashbeza, of England, who came to this place in 1870 and bought a fine estate known as Rock Spring.

Properly belonging to the private ducking club of George J. Gould and William P. Clyde, of New York, Princeps Anne county, has been wrecked by residents of the county, who have reserved that no gunning by outsiders will be allowed. Residents of the county have always had free access to the grounds. On Monday night all the boats at the Back Bay Club owned by Gould were sunk. Other depredations have occurred nightly for the past week. One of the men placed on the Gould property as a guard was shot at twice Saturday night, and he threw up the job.

SYSTEM A TRAVESTY.

In advocating the need of an agricultural college in connection with the public schools of the state before the mid-winter session of the Virginia State Farmers' Institute yesterday in Richmond, several speakers, including members of the legislature and Superintendent of Public Instruction Joseph D. Eggleston, stated that in spite of what was being done the public school system was not accomplishing the proper results in this state, or for that matter, in any part of the United States.

Senator Charles U. Gray, chairman of the system a travesty on education and Eggleston spoke in the same vein, saying that the country schools were elsewhere were no better than kind of imitations of the city schools. They suggested plans whereby in co-operation with the schools, somewhere could be systematically taught, which met with the hearty endorsement of the entire audience.

In his report for the year President Weems related Davis treated the most important questions now before the farmers in a practical way, laying particular stress on the plan for supplying the farmers of the state with time from the state quarries at a particularly the cost price. He got his idea from the state of Illinois, where the plan of working quarries in time quarries has proven most successful. A resolution was passed asking that the legislature pass a law securing the necessary quarries to be worked by convicts.

The executive committee re-elected the following officers: President, Westmoreland Davis; vice president, Joseph A. Turner; treasurer, James Bellwood; secretary, B. Morgan Shepherd. Petersburg was elected as the place for holding the next summer session.

Wedding.

London, Feb. 2.—At the parish church in Roanoke, Miss Caroline Astor Drayton, grand-daughter of the late William Astor, today became the wife of William Phillips, first secretary of the American Embassy. A simple service marked the wedding and only a few intimate friends and relatives were present. Miss Drayton was given away by her father, J. Coleman Drayton, who divorced the bride's mother in 1906. Mrs. Drayton subsequently married Geo. Ogilvie Esq.

The wedding was performed by Canon Edgar Sheppard, chaplain to the king, assisted by the vicar of Roanoke. The bride wore a wedding dress of plain satin, a necklace of pearls, the gift of her father, being her chief ornament.

Railroad Accident.

Cincinnati, Feb. 2.—A fireman was killed and three were wounded in a Baltimore and Ohio freight and big four freight collision at Winton Place, near here this morning.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 2.—Engineer Guthrie was fatally and three other trainmen seriously injured today when the milk train on the Wilmington and the Calumet division of the Reading Railroad ran into an open switch in the Costleville yard and collided with a switch engine.